



Important Announcement:

Comment Period Extended for Draft Wastewater Discharge Permits for Lucky Friday, Coeur and Galena Mines

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responding to a request to extend the public comment period for two draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for mining facilities in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. **The comment period will be extended until August 3rd.**

The permits are for the Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan, owned by Hecla Mining Company and the Coeur and Galena Mines Coeur and Galena Mines and Mills near Wallace, owned by Coeur Silver Valley, Inc. NPDES permits are required under the Clean Water Act for all point sources discharging pollutants into waters of the United States. These permits update the facilities' existing wastewater permits.

Written comments will be accepted on the permits until August 3, 2001. EPA will consider all comments before issuing the final permits. Comments should be addressed to: Office of Water Director at U.S. EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130, Seattle, WA 98101.

The draft permits and supporting fact sheets are available for review at:

Idaho Dept. of Environ. Quality	Wallace Public Library
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office	415 River Street
2110 Ironwood Parkway	Wallace, Idaho
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83814	208-752-4571
208-769-1422	

The draft permits and fact sheets can also be found on EPA's Region 10 website at:
www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm.

For information about the Lucky Friday draft permit, contact Patty McGrath, at 206-553-0979.
For information about the Coeur and Galena draft permit, contact Kelly Huynh, at 206-553-8414.

**NOTE: THE FULL TEXT OF THE FORMAL TIME EXTENSION NOTICE IS PROVIDED
ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Region 10
Park Place Building, 13th Floor
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130
Seattle, Washington 98101

NOTICE OF EXTENSION TO COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED REISSUANCE
OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMITS TO
DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Permit Numbers: ID-000017-5 and ID-000002-7
Technical Contacts for: Hecla Mining Company, Lucky Friday Mine:
Patty McGrath, 206-553-0979
1-800-424-4372 (within Region 10)
mcgrath.patty@epa.gov

Coeur Silver Valley, Inc., Coeur and Galena Mines and Mills
Kelly Huynh 206-553-8414
1-800-424-4372 (within Region 10)
huynh.kelly@epa.gov

Original Public Notice Issuance Date: March 28, 2001
Original Extended Public Notice Expiration Date: June 28, 2001
Extended Public Notice Expiration Date: August 3, 2001

1. Applicants

Hecla Mining Company, Lucky Friday Mine
P.O. Box 31
Mullan, Idaho 83846
Permit No.: ID-000017-5

Coeur Silver Valley, Inc.
Coeur and Galena Mines and Mills
P.O. Box 440
Wallace, Idaho 83873
Permit No.: ID-000002-7

This action is in response to a request from the Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition for an extension of the public comment period. An extension for more time was requested in order to review the proposed plan for the Bunker Hill Superfund Site concurrent with the draft NPDES permits for the mines. The proposed plan was developed under the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA hereby extends the comment period an additional 36 days to August 3, 2001.

2. Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment on the tentative determinations contained in the draft permit(s) must do so in writing by August 3, 2001 to be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the permit(s). All comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the commenter and a concise statement of the exact basis of any comment and the relevant facts upon which it is based. All written comments should be submitted to the EPA at the above address to the attention of the Director, Office of Water.

Any person may request, in writing, that IDEQ provide that person a copy of IDEQ's preliminary 401 certification comments, including, where appropriate, the draft certification. Persons wishing to comment on the preliminary 401 comments should submit written comments by the public notice expiration date to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, c/o David Stasney at 2110 Ironwood Parkway, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 or fax number 208-769-1404 or dstasney@deq.id.us.

3. Administrative Record

The draft NPDES permits and other related documents are on file and may be inspected at the above address any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies and other information may be requested by writing to the EPA at the above address to the attention of the NPDES Permits Unit, or by calling 206-553-0523. The draft permits and fact sheets are also available from the:

EPA Coeur d'Alene Field Office
1910 NW Boulevard
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
208-664-4588

Region 10 website
www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm.

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, Idaho

For those with impaired hearing or speech, please contact EPA's telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) at 206-553-1698 and ask for Kelly Huynh at 206-553-8414 or Ben Cope at 206-553-1442. To ensure effective communication, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting Kelly Huynh at

206-553-8414 or Patty McGrath at 206-553-0979 or 1-800-424-4372.